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NEWS RELEASE

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Commissioner Names New Finance Director for R.I. Education Department

PROVIDENCE – Peter McWalters, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, has appointed Carolyn J. Dias as the Director of the Office of Finance and Accounting at the R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE).

Dias is a 22-year veteran state employee, having worked since 1980 at the R.I. Department of Health.

Since 1998, she has been the Assistant Director for Budget and Finance at the Health Department, with overall responsibility for the department's budgeting, accounting, and procurement systems. Before that, she was the administrator of the Health Department's Division of Family Health and the Division of Disease Control. She has also worked in the Health Department's office of Women, Infants and Children and in the divisions of Emergency Medical Services, Vital Statistics, and Health Personnel.

At RIDE, she will be responsible for all budgets, accounts, and audits, for federal grants, for state aid to schools and state aid for school construction, and for the In\$ite program, which monitors school spending.

Dias, of North Scituate, holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Providence College.

She replaces Adelita S. Orefice, who left RIDE earlier this year to become director of the R.I. Department of Elderly Affairs.